

45 g

29

NO 14 1825

124 5th 8th

Papier

An

Inaugural Dissertation,

on



Leucorrhœa;

by

William W. Oliver,

of

Virginia.

1870

Journal of the

1870

1870

1870

Leucorrhoea, Fluor Albus or Whites

Leucorrhoea is included by Cullen within the order haemorrhagia, and defined a "serous or puriform discharge from the same vessels, which in their healthy or natural condition pour out the menses. We shall not stop to discuss the propriety of his arrangement, as it is not likely to lead to any practical error; and his definition of the disease, though not strictly correct, is perhaps as good as any that has been offered.

With regard to the precise source of the discharge, writers on the subject are not at all agreed: some confine it to the inner surface of the uterus; others to the vagina; and others again, include under the term, discharges both from the uterus and vagina. Clarke considers the neck of the uterus as the most common seat of the disease; against which, it has been alledged, that it presents a surface too small for the production of a discharge so profuse as it not unfrequently is. Without denying that other parts may

he occasionally involves, the best writers seem to agree that the vagina is the most frequent source of the discharge.

The matter discharged in leucorrhoea differs both in colour and consistence at different periods of the complaint. At first, it is thin and glairy, very much resembling the white of an egg, and may be considered as natural mucus. In this early stage, the constitution is seldom affected. At a more advanced period, it is of a milky colour, and is generally, greatly increased in quantity. It may also be of a purulent nature, and all these discharges are occasionally mixed with a little blood; particularly in the advanced stage, when the discharge is purulent, and is supposed to indicate the existence of organic injury.

Leucorrhoea may be produced by causes acting on the general system, or it may result from local irritation, and has hence been divided into

idiopathic and symptomatic leucorrhoea. The first is to be considered as depending on the state of the system at large; the second as entirely local, and arising from some partial affection of the genital parts, the consequence of injury or any other irritating cause. When the discharge is very abundant, or when its quality is highly acrimonious, leucorrhoea is said to be symptomatic of a diseased condition of the uterus, or indicates a disposition thereto.

Among the Causes of idiopathic leucorrhoea, the most common are abortion, menorrhagia, excessive indulgence of coitus, frequent or difficult labours, &c all of which are supposed to act by producing a laxity or loss of tone in the vessels, by which there is an increased quantity of blood determined to the parts.

As causes of symptomatic leucorrhoea, writers are, we believe unanimous in enumerating scirrhus, Cancer, polypus, prolapsus uteri &c

The causes we have mentioned are such as are calculated to debilitate the general system, but more particularly to impair the uterus and its appendages. By some writers it is contended that this disorder never arises from debility; but is always a primary affection of the uterus, or is occasioned by a change in the structure, position or actions of the neighbouring parts. That this is not invariably the case, is satisfactorily proved by the fact, that delicate women removing from a cold to a warm climate are extremely liable to the disease without the uterus having previously sustained any kind of injury. In moist countries and climates, also, where it is to be expected that the body would be impaired and the general system debilitated, we are informed that the discharge of mucus from the vagina is so abundant as to be exceedingly inconvenient to the women.

also, with few in the

The *menstruum*, is violent in many parts of the *menstruum*,
has been ascribed (by Leake) to the dampness of
the *menstruum*.

Menstruum generally shows itself by
the irregular discharge from the vagina, of a
white, pellucid fluid, which is either diminished
or entirely suppressed during the flow of the
menses. As the disease advances, the discharge be-
comes curiously discoloured, and sometimes is
acid as to irritate and inflame the parts, in
some cases is in colour; and hence the name
which sometimes is contained in. If the woman
be of a full habit, there is not uncommonly a
considerable augmentation of vascular action
accompanying by vertigo and nausea. On the
other hand, in a state of debility, it is attended
by dyspepsia, pallidation and most of the other con-
fusions which are connected with debility. In the
former, we recognize the *Menstruum Callidum*, and
in the latter, *Menstruum Virgidum* of *Boerhaave*. The



bowels are most commonly constipated, the digestive functions more or less impaired and the lower excretory disordered.

The only affections, with which leucorrhoea has been associated, is gonorrhoea; to discriminate accurately and satisfactorily between them, often becomes a difficult point in practice, more particularly as the disease of the woman is so not concerned. To the young practitioner totally deficient in experience it is a matter of great perplexity, and is to be rendered easy only by practice. We shall vent on only the inaugural marks which will best aid him in his efforts as discriminative of the two disorders. Gonorrhoea throughout, far takes much more of the inflammatory character than leucorrhoea; in the former, ardor urinae is an invariable symptom, and is generally much more severe than in the latter, in which, it is so altogether absent. Inflammation and the consequent pain in making water are symptoms of



the early stage of gonorrhoea; whereas, in leucorrhoea they are the consequence either of a neglect of cleanliness or of the great irritation in the discharges. In gonorrhoea, the tumidity of the labia and neighbouring parts is greater; the inguinal glands are more apt to be enlarged, and the inclination to venery greater than in leucorrhoea: in the former the discharge is constant and generally frothy and foamy in quality; in the latter, it is very irregular in quantity, sometimes being scarcely observable, it flows so profuse as to occasion an alarming debility; and is either wholly suppressed or moderated at every period on the appearance of the menses. Should an enquiry into the circumstances we have mentioned lead of establishing a cure, the peculiar nature of the woman's accident, we are directed to enquire into her character and connections; in direction what she has tried as a cure, and what she has now, with above suggestions.



There are perhaps not so many to which the
... after calculated to assist dis-
... in this part, as from which the
... are more apt to meet than
those of the genital organs. In addition are the
... and so powerful in its action they
... the undisturbed exercise of
whose functions is essential to health, the con-
stitution is soon overpowered. From motives
... however it does not in reality con-
ceal these diseases, and is not to be
... the practitioner only after he has as-
certained all the symptoms or perhaps placed
... beyond the reach of his skill.
Taken in the commencement and attended vigorously
... and perhaps just in time to
... the cure.

In the first case the treatment of the ...



whether plethoric or the reverse - and the nature of the disease, whether it be of an idiopathic or symptomatic character, are to be carefully ascertained and the treatment directed accordingly.

If in kind it is dependent on any other disease - such as cancer or polypus, it is to be considered only as a symptom the removal of which may be expected to curing the primary affection. If not, we are then to consider the general state of the system.

the common being very plethoric or robust, the obvious indication will be to moderate the force and activity of the system, and this may be accomplished in a variety of ways. The spare diet is yet the use of the cold purgatives occasionally, however, venesection is requisite.

When we find the plethoric state of the system, and the system being over-actively, as it were, a weak constitution, a course is indicated.



different, since, indeed, it is an... the use
... under such circumstances, a great va-
riety of tonics, and... astringent injec-
tions have been recommended by... we
... the subject. Among the former Cinchona
bark, Solumbo, Nutmeg and the Chalybeate
... have the highest rank. The astring-
ents which have proved most efficacious
in such cases, are the extract of Sassafras, the
plants of Liss and... and a decoction
... bark.

In a case of chronic leucorrhoea which during
the past summer occurred in the same person,
Doctor Mitchell ordered the use of...
... directed as to be scarcely sensible to the
taste, to be three or four times a day, three or four
times a day; which had the effect of checking
the discharge almost immediately, and she was
... discharged in a very
... We have not met with an oppor-



... of the ...
... of the ...
... of the ...

In the management of the ...
have acquired a ...
... a pure ...
... and ...
... by making them ...
... on the system, they ...
... the ...
... consists. ...
... - ...
... from the ...
... the ...
... the ...
... the ...
... to ...
... to be ...

... it is ...
... the ...
... the ...





the leucorrhoeal articles, given in doses proper to excite diuresis, are famous in the treatment of gonorrhoea & gleet.

The natives of the south are in the habit of treating these disorders, which they call 'running of the reins', and with a degree of success, scarcely surpassed in regular practice, with the common turpentine which exudes from the pine trees. From one analysis, therefore we would be naturally inclined to think favorably of its use. But of this is in the arrangement of the law. Doctor Chapman has known the oleum turpentinae administered in the dose of ten or fifteen drops repeated once or twice a day prove serviceable in gonorrhoea, gleet and curculera.

It is a substance which is justly attributed to medicines in the treatment of this disease, it is perhaps not less from what have been termed minor observa-



cases, that good results are to be expected. Cleaning, throughout, is of the first importance; hence, the parts should be washed frequently during the day with tepid water, and the patient's bed and body linen changed daily. By these means, we shall not only add greatly to the present comfort of our patient, but, will frequently prevent a most painful and troublesome excoriation of that part of the vulva ~~into~~ⁱⁿ which the discharge may accumulate. Although circumstances may render a variation of diet necessary, yet it should always be light and of easy digestion.

The woman should take regular and moderate exercise, carried to the extent of fatigue, it hardly ever fails to prove mischievous, by increasing the discharge, and adding to her weakness. The daily use of the cold bath, as a general tonic, will often prove beneficial; but it is contraindicated in those cases where there is considerable languor,

and should not be repeated when its use is followed by a sense of chilliness.

She should carefully avoid exposure of every description, but particularly to night air. The use of warm and relaxing articles of diet, immoderate venery and an excessive indulgence of sleep, especially on a feather bed, are to be considered as predisposing to the disease, and should consequently be avoided.

